

Hello!

We've finished the April 8, 2014 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of April 8, 2014 and are posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iudir?s=b120up>.

Forecast Summary:

Considering the rivers forecasted in the B120 update, the projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 13 percent on the Tule River to 54 percent for the Inflow to Shasta Lake. On average, the forecasts remain unchanged from the April 1 forecast. The largest drops (approximately 2 percent) were forecast on the American and Mokelumne rivers. Gains of 2 percent were forecast for the Merced, Kaweah, and Kern rivers.

Runoff:

The flow patterns that persisted in March have continued into April. The northern Sierra flows so far in April are less than average but greater than the central and southern Sierra flows. The largest percent-of-average flow for April is the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge where the average flow is 85 percent. All rivers south of the American are flowing at a rate less than 40 percent of average. This might be due, in part, to the higher elevations in the central and southern Sierra and the corresponding later melt periods.

Precipitation:

As of April 8, the Northern Sierra 8 Station (8SI) and San Joaquin 5 Station (5SI) precipitation indexes registered 1.0 and 1.3 inches for the month. The rates of precipitation have been above average for the month.

The seasonal precipitation for these two indexes are about 27 and 16 inches, respectively, and represent 63 and 47 percent of average for the season.

The seasonal precipitation in the Tulare Lake region through March has been 41 percent of average. The March value was about 55 percent of average.

Snowpack:

As of April 8, 2014, the snow sensor data indicates that the Northern, Central, and Southern Sierra snowpack are at 25, 40, and 31 percent of average, respectively. The statewide snow water content stands at 9 inches (34 percent of normal).

Weather and Climate Outlook:

The forecast for the next six days shows no significant precipitation anywhere in the state. Less than 0.2 inches is forecast over the northern Sierra on Tuesday. During this period, freezing elevations are expected to begin near 12,000 feet and remain near that elevation until Tuesday when the levels drop to near 9,000 feet in the north and 10,000 feet in the south.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) one-month outlook for April, updated March 31, suggests increased chances of above normal temperatures for all of the State. The same outlook predicts increased chances of below normal precipitation in the southern and eastern

Sierra Nevada as well as the Colorado River region and equal chances of above or below normal precipitation elsewhere in the State.

The CPC's three-month outlook (April-June), updated March 20, suggests increased chances of above normal temperatures for all of California. The same outlook predicts increased chances of below normal precipitation over all of the State.

El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently neutral. ENSO-neutral conditions are expected to persist through the Northern Hemisphere Spring 2014 with about a 50% chance of El Niño developing during the summer or fall.

Next Update:

The next Bulletin 120 update for conditions on April 15, 2014 will be available on April 17, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff. We are happy to help.